

## **DOC ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

### **1/31/06 Meeting**

#### **MSP Lockdown 12/21/05- 12/26/05**

- On Wednesday, 12/21/05, around 11:40 a.m. the MSP Inner Perimeter Security (IPS) Team doing a mass search of Close Unit 1 found a security breach in one of the inmate cells. These searches are scheduled monthly by the IPS team for the housing units.
- Space in the wall of the cell had been chipped out and the first cement block portion of the wall was breached. Outer tip up concrete wall was not breached. Numerous tools were found in the hole in the wall that had been disguised by the inmates. When the initial problem was found not all of this information was known.
- Emergency procedures were activated at this time.
- After inmate count and staff accountability cleared, the facility went into a lockdown status due to:
  - Cell area was a potential crime scene and turned over to the DOC investigators
  - A lot of unknowns at this time
  - Timeframe of when the cell wall breach occurred was not known
  - Connection between what was found and other information that was available needed to be reviewed and investigated.
  - Incident had ongoing information regarding it and other potential security issues were raised or being looked into.
- Lockdown continued through the end of Monday on 12/26/05 with various phases of the lockdown occurring. Portions of the full lockdown were lifted starting Thursday 12/22/05. The lockdown affected all phases of the MSP operation. The main impact on inmate activities were in the following areas:
  - Meals and feeding of inmates
  - Visiting
  - Religious Activities
  - Work activities
  - Recreation
  - Infirmary and health care
- Length of the lockdown determined by
  - Discussion and decisions made by the correctional staff at MSP based on the information available. Lockdown plan of action was reviewed and adjusted as needed on a daily basis.

- Breach of the wall was in a close custody housing unit on the MSP high side of the compound
- Time required conducting an initial investigation and checking out information received on items found as well as additional information that was available.
- Cooperation by the inmate population
- Moving into the Christmas weekend and staff holiday on Monday which impacted staffing levels at the facility.
- Additional information received after the lockdown procedures initiated and events were being raised
- Needed to ensure we have staff and inmate safety as well as the public safety.
- Lockdown provided us with excellent information regarding:
  - Ability to respond quickly to an event at MSP
  - Issues related to our Emergency Preparedness plan of action
  - Cooperation needed by both inmates and staff in these types of situations.
  - Large benefits of having the cook chill process in place and the effect on preparation and serving of meals
  - Additional preparation needed by MSP for any potential emergency events in the future
  - Reinforced the continual awareness needed by MSP/MCE staff when supervising inmates, along with the importance of cell and inmate shakedowns.
  - Methods of communication to staff, inmates and the public during special events at MSP
  - Reinforcement of the direct supervision model of inmates with staff
  - Clear message sent to inmates on the response to major security violations or attempts to breach security.
- Some aspects of the inmate cell breach are still under investigation

### **Cascade County Inmate Transport Escape 1/11/06**

- Inmate Dueston Haggard, AO46163, escaped from a Cascade County Sheriffs transport van on 1/11/06 while being transported through Helena to MSP at approximately 7:30 a.m.
- Inmate had breached his restraints and went out the Cascade County transport van roof escape hatch. Inmate Haggard slide off the back of the van as the vehicle was slowing or stopping on the off ramp at the Lincoln road interchange off of I-15 in Helena.

- The Cascade County transport van had 11 inmates, 4 of which were dropped off at Powell County Sheriffs Office, and 7 were to be transported to the Reception Unit at MSP.
- When transport van arrived at Reception Unit, Cascade County transport staff determined they were short one inmate.
- Notification of the escape was made as soon as the determination was made. Emergency alert went out over the state regarding this inmate.
- Inmate was captured by Lewis and Clark Sheriffs office at the Blackstone Inn in Helena around 10:30 p.m. on the day of the escape. DOC, MSP, Powell County, and Cascade County staff assisted Lewis and Clark law enforcement personnel in the search for and apprehension of the inmate.
- Inmate was being transported to prison to serve a 40 year sentence for robbery. Inmate Haggard also has a deliberate homicide charge pending in Cascade County.
- Contributing factors related to the escape:
  - No strip search at the Cascade County jail was performed by Cascade County transport Officers prior to the transport.
  - Inmate telephone access on the day of the transport provided potential for assistance in the escape such as money for clothes, motel, etc.
  - Inspections of the transport van prior to transport was not done by Cascade County Staff.
  - Inmate had acquired a handcuff key which he used to breach his leg irons, belly chains and handcuffs
  - No chase car followed the van.
- Inmate, after capture, was arraigned in Lewis and Clark County and transported to MSP by MSP Inner Perimeter Security Team that was on site during the capture. Inmate is currently in Maximum Security Unit.
- Transportation of inmates is always a potentially dangerous situation so following of proper procedures is critical. Problems with a transport can occur for any entity doing transports.

## **Inmate Transportation**

### **Current Inmate Transportation**

- County Sheriffs provide the first initial transport from county to MSP (by law) following initial sentencing.
- MSP performs transports related to court, medical or other issues. MSP assists as needed with transports to DOC contracted facilities, extraditions, or other locations.

- DOC and the Governors Office has a contract with TransCor to provide inmate transportation for transports to DOC contracted facilities, extraditions, and the Montana portion of the NorthWest Shuttle
- Monthly contract cost with TransCor is approximately \$33,000 plus the cost of extraditions for an annual budget in excess of \$400,000. Budget allocation for FY-06 is \$243,724.

#### Effective 7/1/06

- TransCor contract will expire and MSP will take over the transportation of inmates that is currently being done by TransCor
- County Sheriffs will still be required to provide the first initial transport from the county to MSP.
- MSP is working with County Sheriffs on the transportation associated with inmate moves within the state and those associated with the NorthWest Shuttle
- MSP is currently working on the specifics and items needed to take over the TransCor contract effective 7/1/06
  - Additional staffing – Transportation department will increase from 12 to 19
  - Transport Vehicles – 2 vans with high security inserts and chase car
  - Scheduling of transports
  - Union issues – hiring issues related to interview versus seniority
  - Potential adjustment in work schedule of staff
  - Issues related to transports of females (searches, supervision, separation, etc.)
  - Training issues (firearms, less lethal options, OC, tasers, defensive driving)